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Security Council

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Letter dated 29 August 2002 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached report from Mauritania, submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**
Chairman
Counter-Terrorism Committee

02-58185 (E) 200902 200902

Annex

Note verbale dated 26 August 2002 from the Permanent Mission of Mauritania to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

[Original: French]

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the United Nations in New York presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and has the honour to transmit to the Committee herewith a report from the competent Mauritanian authorities in implementation of certain of the provisions of the above-mentioned resolution (see enclosure).

Enclosure

Report required by the United Nations

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania has always spoken out against terrorism. Mauritania's position, characterized by a firm opposition to all forms of terrorism, has consistently been expressed in its official statements on all occasions.

On no occasion have the Mauritanian authorities failed to express their firm determination to combat by all means the worldwide phenomenon known as terrorism.

On another level, Mauritanian security services have devoted much effort in recent years to uncovering and dismantling any organizations that might be involved, directly or indirectly, in acts of a violent or terrorist nature.

In that regard, new regulations in force in the country ban any type of clandestine or underground organization, regardless of its motives or aims. All organizations of a strict nationalist stripe have been disbanded; their leaders have been prosecuted and their activities suspended. The same treatment has been accorded to ethnically based racist organizations.

Hence, clandestine movements with ideologies that promote violence, such as the Baathist, Nasserist and Islamist movements and other ethnic movements with a racist philosophy, have been dismantled and banned and their leaders prosecuted.

In 1994, the Islamist movement was the subject of a thorough investigation, which revealed that within the movement there was a group that had been formed in Mauritania under the name of "Jihad". Some members of that group had been in Afghanistan and had had contacts with bin Laden's al-Qa'idah organization. That cell was nipped in the bud, and the organization was thus prevented from establishing and spreading itself in Mauritania.

Intensive surveillance of that milieu is maintained, and any indications of plans to form new groups or attempts to set up new organizational structures based on those ideologies are thoroughly investigated, so that such attempts can be suppressed or prevented.

Moreover, the security and police forces have made every effort, both within the country and at its frontiers, to avoid any incursion from abroad that might revive an activism linked to extremist elements known to encourage violence or terrorism.

In consequence, members of Islamist movements, among others, and in particular Afghans, Algerians and all those belonging to milieux known to support terrorism, are denied visas to enter Mauritania. This action, which is vigorously pursued, is supported by other measures in the form of regulations, reforms to improve the capacity of the various services, special training and procurement of modern equipment adequate to the task.

Mauritania is also cooperating actively with all the security services of friendly nations in exchanging information and knowledge with regard to terrorism.

On the institutional level, reforms are currently under way to improve the various agencies engaged in counter-terrorism within the security services. Some training has been procured for staff with those responsibilities.

So far, matters have been handled well, and the phenomenon is nearly non-existent in the country, in the sense that there is no terrorist organization in Mauritania.